

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## TAY-SACHS AWARENESS MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Tay-Sachs is a rare, inherited disorder that causes progressive destruction of nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord (the central nervous system) due to insufficient activity of an enzyme call beta-hexosaminidase A; and

WHEREAS, there is no treatment or cure for Tay-Sachs disease and the disease is always fatal in children; and

WHEREAS, the disorder was first identified by British ophthalmologist Warren Tay in 1881 and American neurologist Bernard Sachs in 1887; and

WHEREAS, Tay-Sachs disease often affects families with no prior history; approximately one in twenty-seven Ashkenazi Jews, one in fifty Irish-Americans and one in every 250 people are carriers of the disorder; and

WHEREAS, if both parents are carriers, there is a twenty-five percent chance their child will have Tay-Sachs disease; and

WHEREAS, a simple blood test can determine if one is a Tay-Sachs carrier, and I encourage all North Carolina residents, especially those known to be at higher risk, to be screened;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August as "TAY-SACHS AWARENESS MONTH" and commend its observance to our citizens.



*Michael F. Easley*  
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-fifth day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.